

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-2, 5-20, 22-24, and 27-36 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-2, 5, 9, 11, 14, 20, 22, and 34 are amended. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-2, 5-6, 8, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Independent claim 1 has been amended to address the Examiner's comments. That is, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that at least a portion of an edge of the tray has substantially a same end as and does not protrude substantially beyond an edge of a disk seated in the disk-seating portion. Referring, for example, to the exemplary embodiment shown in Fig. 9 of the present application, the tray 60 includes a tray seating portion 61, at least a portion of an edge of which has a same edge as and does not protrude substantially beyond an edge of a disk seated in the disk-seating portion 62. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-2, 5-6, 8, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ryuta, Japanese Patent No. 07-287911. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, wherein at least a portion of an edge of the tray has substantially a same end as and does not protrude beyond an edge of a

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disk seated in the disk-seating portion. Ryuta does not disclose or suggest such features, or the claimed combination of independent claim 1.

Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 over Ryuta should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2, 5-6, 8, and 18 are allowable over Ryuta at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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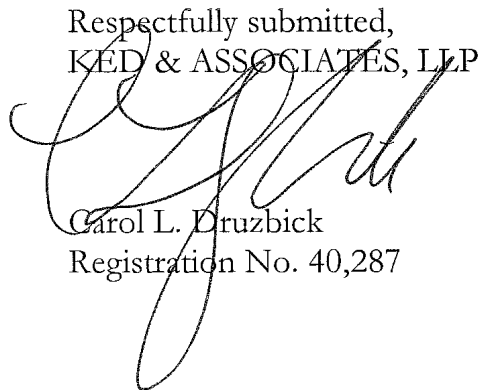
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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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